

**CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD**

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October 25, 2016

Mr. Michael W. Bessette, PE  
Director of Engineering  
Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency  
Post Office Box M  
Yuba City, California 95991

Subject: Initial Review of Adequate Progress Findings toward Urban Level of Flood Protection Plan for Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

Dear Mr. Bessette:

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) staff received your July 14, 2016 letter and its attachments regarding adequate progress findings toward an urban level of flood protection for levees within the current jurisdiction of the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA). We understand that these findings have been prepared on behalf of and in coordination with Sutter and Butte Counties, and the cities of Yuba City, Live Oak, and Gridley. The purpose of our review is to evaluate compliance with the statutory requirements of California Government Code Section 65007(a).

Staff reviewed the following documents submitted by SBFCA:

- Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency Urban Level of Protection Adequate Progress Report, July 5, 2016
- Engineer's Report, Feather River West Levee (FRWL) Phase I, Urban Levee Design Criteria (ULDC) Compliance Station 512+00 to 1674+37 and Station 1769+31 to 2368+26, Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency, California, June 30, 2016
- Independent Panel of Experts review of administrative draft Engineer's Report titled "Feather River West Levee Phase I, ULDC Compliance" dated June 17, 2016, and IPE letter of concurrence dated June 30, 2016
- Engineer's response dated July 5, 2016

In preparation of these findings, SBFCA prepared an Engineer's Report to provide substantial evidence that the flood risk reduction facilities of the FRWL, from north of the Star Bend Setback Levee (Station 512+00) to south of the Thermalito Afterbay (Station 2368+26), will comply with the Department of Water Resources' Urban Levee Design Criteria (ULDC, May 2012), and will be able to withstand a 200-year flood event once the FRWL Project is complete. It is noted that the FRWL Reaches 26 through 28 (from Station 1674+37 to 1769+31) are considered freeboard levee reaches and are not covered in the Engineer's Report.

The Independent Panel of Experts (IPE), appointed by your agency, reviewed the Engineer's Report, and concluded that "Based on our review of the Engineer's Report, the IPE for the

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West Feather River Levee Project supports the information and findings in the Engineer's Report and also agrees with the assertions and conclusions contained within."

Furthermore, Larsen Wurzel & Associates, Inc. (LWA), professional registered California civil engineers, certified that "once near-term planned work documented in this Engineer's Report and construction have been completed in accordance with the designs, the FRWL Project Phase I (from Station 512+00 to Station 2368+26, excluding Stations 1674+37 to 1769+31), will comply with the requirements of the ULDC, with the exceptions identified." Moreover, LWA certified that "the FRWL from Station 1674+37 to Station 1769+31 is a freeboard levee and is not needed to provide an urban level of flood protection. Once the FRWL Project Phase I is completed it is considered to meet the requirements of the ULDC."

The 2007 California flood legislation requires local flood management agencies to report annually to the Board regarding their progress toward completion of a 200-year flood protection system which may include the following documentation:

- Validation that the adequate progress finding is still effective;
- Documentation that demonstrates 90 percent of the required revenue scheduled to be received has been appropriated and is being expended;
- Documentation that demonstrates critical features of the flood protection system are under construction and progressing based on the actual expenditures of the construction budget; and,
- Documentation that demonstrates the local flood management agency has not been responsible for any significant delays in completion of the flood control system.

Our review has determined that your submittal sufficiently complies with the statutory requirements of California Government Code Section 65007(a). This compliance letter is valid through September 30, 2017. In 2017 and subsequent years, staff will evaluate reported findings of adequate progress based on review of your agency's annually submitted documents.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact Mr. Ali Porbaha by telephone at (916) 574-2378, or by email at [mohammad.porbaha@cvflood.ca.gov](mailto:mohammad.porbaha@cvflood.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Leslie M. Gallagher  
Executive Officer